

We claim:

1. A method for selective encryption within a document comprising the steps of:
  - detecting a first section of a document selected and marked for encryption;
  - detecting at least one additional section of the document selected and marked  
5 for encryption; and
  - encrypting at least one of said detected document section copies with at least two different encryption keys.
- 10 2. The method as described in claim 1 further comprising after said encrypting step, the step of displaying the document with the selected portions of the document encrypted.
3. The method as described in claim 2 wherein the encrypted portions are displayed in a random unintelligible format until a proper decryption key is entered.
- 15 4. The method as described in claim 2 further comprising after said displaying step, the step of repeating said detecting and encrypting steps for another selective portion of the document.
- 20 5. The method as described in claim 2 further comprising after said displaying step, the step of storing the document with the selected portions encrypted.
6. The method as described in claim 5 further comprising after said storing step, the steps of:
  - 25 detecting an attempt to access an encrypted portion of the document; and
  - determining whether the accessor is authorized to access the encrypted portion of the document.
7. The method as described in claim 6 wherein said authorization-determining step  
30 further comprises matching the encryption supplied by the accessor with at least one of the encryption keys for the document section for which access is attempted.

8. The method as described in claim 7 further comprising the step of displaying the document with any previously encrypted portions decrypted when the determination is that the accessor has the authority to access the encrypted portion of the document.

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9 The method as described in claim 2 further comprising after said displaying step, the step of transmitting the document across a computing network to an identified destination.

10 10. The method as described in claim 1 wherein each encrypted section of the document has one encryption key that is used in more than one the encryption sections of the document.

11. The method as described in claim 1 wherein said detecting step further comprises  
15 identifying a selected portion of a document that is marked by swiping a peripheral apparatus that interfaces with a computing device over the portion of the document for which encryption is desired.

12. A computer program product in a computer readable medium for selective  
20 encryption within a document comprising:

- instructions for detecting a first section of a document selected and marked for encryption;
- instructions for detecting at least one additional section of the document selected and marked for encryption;
- 25 - instructions for encrypting at least one of said detected document sections with at least two different encryption keys; and
- encrypting at least one of other said section with at least one encryption key.

13. The computer program product as described in claim 12 further comprising after  
30 said encrypting instructions, instructions for displaying the document with the selected portions of the document encrypted.

14. The computer program product as described in claim 13 wherein the encrypted portions are displayed in a random unintelligible format until a proper decryption key is entered.

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15. The computer program product as described in claim 12 further comprising after said displaying instructions, instructions for repeating said detecting and encrypting instructions for another selective portion of the document.

10 16. The computer program product as described in claim 12 further comprising after said displaying instructions, instructions for storing the document with the selected portions encrypted.

15 17. The method as described in claim 16 further comprising after said storing instructions, instructions for:

detecting an attempt to access an encrypted portion of the document; and  
determining whether the accessor is authorized to access the encrypted portion of the document.

20 18. The computer program product as described in claim 17 wherein said authorization-determining instructions further comprise matching the encryption supplied by the accessor with at least one of the encryption keys for the document section for which access is attempted.

25 19. The method as described in claim 18 further comprising instructions for displaying the document with any previously encrypted portions decrypted when the determination is that the accessor has the authority to access the encrypted portion of the document.

20. The computer program product as described in claim 12 further comprising after said displaying instructions, instructions for transmitting the document across a computing network to an identified destination.

5 21. The computer program product described in claim 12 wherein each encrypted section of the document has one encryption key that is used in more than one of the encryption sections of the document.

22. A method for selective encryption within a document comprising the steps of:

10 - detecting a first section of a document selected and marked for encryption;

- detecting at least one additional section of the document selected and marked for encryption;

- adding a character string to the text of a section of the document selected for encryption; and

15 - encrypting a selected section of the document with at least two different encryption keys.

23. The method as described in claim 22 further comprising the step of encrypting at least one of other section of the document with at least one encryption key.

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24. The method as described in claim 1 further comprising the step of encrypting at least one of other section of the document with at least one encryption key.